

OPPOSITION IS CHALLENGED TO INTRODUCE A MOTION OF WANT OF CONFIDENCE

Hon. W. E. Raney Thus Boldly Makes Reply in Debate to Question of Re- sponsibility of the Drury Government

ONE CONSERVATIVE IS FOR REFERENDUM

J. R. Cooke of North Hast- ings Will Vote With Gov- ernment — Provincial Secretary Makes Contri- bution to the Debate

Replying to the charges that bringing in the resolution calling for a referendum by a private member was not an act of responsible Government, Hon. W. E. Raney, Attorney-General, in the debate in the Legislature last night, challenged anyone to try a vote of want of confidence and see if the Government, was responsible. He also gave it as his opinion, and the opinion of his department, that it would be 1921 at least, and probably 1922, before the Province could get a decision on a test case as to whether Bill 26 applies to Ontario.

The debate on the McCreary resolution is by no means finished. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative Leader, and H. H. Dewart, Liberal Leader, have not yet spoken. It will be resumed next Tuesday.

Conservative Favors Resolution.

There were few surprises in the attitude of any of the members, except that of a Conservative, J. R. Cooke (North Hastings), who declared that he would support the resolution. A. M. Rankin (Frontenac) said that, failing the Hill amendment, he would support the resolution. The only two Liberal members to speak yesterday, John O'Neill (Southeast Toronto), and Capt. Ramsden (Southwest Toronto), lined up behind the Brackin amendment. Capt. Joseph Thompson (Northeast Toronto) said he would support both amendments. M. M. MacBride, the only Labor speaker of the day, will support the Brackin amendment. The other two speakers were Hon. W. E. Raney and Hon. H. C. Nixon, the Provincial Secretary. Both put a strong case for the resolution. Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) is against a referendum, and will support the Hill amendment only.

With Mr. Cooke for the resolution, the number of supporters is on the increase. The Liberal members favoring the resolution are standing solid. But it goes over another weekend. It would seem that most members of the House wish to explain their attitudes, as well as indicating it by a vote. The galleries were crowded last night in expectation of a division.

Mr. Raney Heckled.

Hon. Mr. Raney, who was really making his maiden speech in the House, as his previous utterances have been brief explanations, was heckled considerably. He dealt effectively with Opposition criticism. He was interrupted at the outset

because he almost turned his back on the Speaker when he spoke. Opposition members wanted to know to whom he was speaking. He appealed to the Speaker and was allowed to proceed in his own way.

Objects to Province

Profiting on Liquor

M. M. MacBride (Brantford) resumed the debate late yesterday afternoon. Labor, he said, had made more real progress for itself and the country since strong drink was taken away than it had before. The Labor members knew, as everybody else knew, that liquor had been a curse to the country. He was prepared to go the limit under Provincial power to stop the liquor traffic, but it was another matter when he was asked to delve into Federal affairs on the question.

He argued that the Provincial Government, having had the power to tell hotels to get rid of liquor, could do the same with the homes where it is stocked. It could then limit the quantity that could be sold. He was critical of the Province making money from liquor sale, and asked if the Province was not taking a backward step when it made money on liquor. There should be no profit. The Board of Health had very wide powers, and surely the Province could have equal powers in regulating the sale of liquor. He was prepared to back to his utmost the Government in such legislation.

Control Drug Traffic.

The Brantford member made reference to the drug traffic and urged a better control. He asked if the Government had its eyes shut to the situation. He agreed with The Pioneer that amendments might be made to the O. T. A. which, he declared, was the hardest act to enforce of any in the world.

"That's true," said Mr. Raney.

The Government should make changes and get it right before it could expect the License Board to enforce it properly.

He was a believer in majorities, but he was tolerant enough to grant minorities rights. The one minority that was subject to rights more than others was the returned soldiers. He argued that if moral reform and uplift were pressed too far the inevitable was that we would get something we did not desire. He quoted figures from various States of the American Union to show the return swing of the pendulum.

"We should proceed sanely if we are not to have a backward step." He quoted Premier Drury's remark about getting a free discussion in the House, and added that he thought it a right attitude. After that he thought the Premier should get a resolution which would be agreeable to all the members of the House.

The Dominion Government he accused of "passing the buck" on the temperance question, and said that Hon. N. W. Rowell was father of the idea. Regarding the vote last fall Mr. MacBride said: "This Province voted 'dry,' and there is no question of that to-day." Continuing his attack on the Federal Government, he said: "If Ontario and the other Provinces accept the dictates of the Dominion Government, Mr. Rowell intends to ride into power on that, and all his temperance friends will be advocating his election."

"Double-barrelled Policy."

The present policy before the House, he said, was "double-barrelled," with the McCreary resolution and the Sandy Bill. That dou-